



Denver Law's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Office launched an Arts Initiative in Spring 2022 to highlight visual art in the building aligned with our mission and Denver Law's commitment to DEI. The visual art on display is designed to elevate themes of diversity, equity, and inclusion; social justice and the law; liberation; decolonization; healing; and the changing demographics of the Denver metropolitan area and the state of Colorado more broadly. It also seeks to highlight artists from historically marginalized communities. This is an ongoing project.

Currently, artwork from the following artists are on display in the Ricketson Law Building:

Sammy Seung-Min Lee: Sammy Seung-Min Lee's work will be featured in Fall 2022 in the Forum. Sammy is an artist based in Denver, Colorado. Lee was born and raised in Seoul, South Korea, and moved to Southern California at the age of sixteen. She studied fine art and media art at UCLA and architecture at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Among her many accomplishments is a performative collaboration with Yo-Yo Ma during the Bach project tour in 2018. Lee is recently a resident artist at Redline, serves as an ambassador for Asian Art at Denver Art Museum, and operates a contemporary art project and residency space, called Collective SML|k in Santa Fe Art District, Denver. Lee's work has been exhibited internationally and can be found in collections at the Getty Research Institute, Bainbridge Island Museum of Art, Spencer Museum of Art, Denver Art Museum, and the Spanish National Library in Madrid. Her work will be featured at the Sturm College of Law Fall of 2022. Studio SML|k. *This bio/more information is available at <https://www.studiosmlk.com/info> (last visited August 23, 2022).*

This project is part of "A Very Proper Table Setting", which Sammy describes as "a cross-cultural experiment that involves setting tables: visitors are invited to set up imaginary meals for someone special while using mainly all Korean serving vessels. When a participant has a specific dish in mind to set up from his or her own culture, yet unable to find a perfectly suitable serving vessel for it, one realizes that [they are] in unfamiliar territory, similar to what newly-settled immigrants experience. Serving vessels and cutlery carry social norms, etiquettes, and suggestions that are unique to each culture. Participants will have to reinvent meanings, significances, and functions from Korea to serve his and her backgrounds and expectations. Notes from the exercises -such as diner's name, information on meal and neighborhood - will firstly be documented, will be used as a guide for me to assemble communal dining tables, then these table arrangements will be cast with papers." *This description/more information is available at <https://www.studiosmlk.com/cast> (last visited August 23, 2022).*



Lee's display at the law school, inviting students to engage in a participatory project in August 2022, which is the foundation of the work displayed in November 2022.

John Toms: John Toms' pieces will be displayed in Fall 2022. John Toms was born October 21, 1957, in Cincinnati, Ohio. His family moved to Denver, Colorado the next year. By the age of two, John was drawing and tracing pictures of his family and precious life experiences. He continued developing his artistic skill through high school and furthered his education at the Colorado Institute of Art and the European Institute of Fine Art and Commercial Arts. John began displaying his works publicly in 1979. He's participated in numerous one man & group shows, auctions and sales nationwide. He formed his own publishing company, Black Market Ink, in March of 1993. The recent release of prints of several of his works, and a couple CD covers have boosted his career. John's works are featured in the collections of several notable collectors, and one of the originals from his "Jazz" series was purchased by the DuSable Museum of African American History in Chicago. His recent group showings have included the company of such notable fellow artists as, Charles Bibbs, Annie Lee, Joseph Hoiston, Paul Goodnight, Verna Hart, Larry "Poncho" Brown, Gilbert Young, Bernard Hoyes, Tim Hinton, & Ariene Case to name a few. John's work is characterized by strong compositions of dramatic images flowing with vivid colors. Utilizing oils, acrylics, watercolors, luma dyes, pastels, inks, colored pencils and charcoals, John approaches his craft with a sincere passion. His selection of subject matter has proven to be even more diversified than his media. Most of his work has been primarily focused on capturing the life spirit of the 'Black American experience'. John's themes range from the spirited church in the country to the lively streets of the ghetto with lots of other uncharted territory between. The ideas for his works come from the many corridors of his dreams, and observations. They include glimpses from the past, a unique perspective of the present, visions of the future as well as glances at the romantic inside him. John states, "You can tell this man cares, just listen to him ... Hey Eazy! (that's his nick- name). What do you rare about? "Our kids (he has two sons and he coaches little league teams)., for they are our future ... I realize times may be tough, but you've got to be a Big Dreamer. Yet, way too many people take the little things for granted. I appreciate the small pleasures and treasures of daily life. I truly

appreciate all the people who've made it possible for me to explore my talents, especially the women in my life! The music I've been around has been inspirational and I'd like to thank Jaz (his old dog) for coming back as Sox (his new cat)! I enjoy Cooking and eating, sports, etc Basically I Love Life! Everyone should allow themselves a license to dream, and don't be afraid of your corridors. I feel like my art is what God has given me to give of myself right now, and I hope it touches some hearts or warms some moments..."

This bio is available at https://www.askart.com/artist/john_toms/122720/john_toms.aspx?alert=info (last visited August 23, 2022).

Arts Street: Arts Street serves youth ages 14-24, with 90% in high school at time of enrollment. It is a training program that cultivates low-income/underserved youth into valuable members of the creative workforce. It uses the power of the arts and technology to engage youth in learning and career development, nurture leadership, build integrity and help the community at-large. Arts Street created pieces specifically for Denver Law. *This bio is available at <https://www.arts-street.org/about-1>. (last visited February 6, 2023).*

Birdseed Collective: Birdseed Collective is a nonprofit community outreach organization that is dedicated to improving the socioeconomic climate of Denver, Colorado through innovative arts and humanities offerings. The goal is to transform the lives of artists, youth, individuals, and communities through visionary art, civic projects and programs. Birdseed Collective created a logo for the Spring 2022 AALS Clinical Conference, commissioned by Denver Law. The work of Birdseed Collective is featured in the 3rd Floor of the Ricketson Law Building near the clinical office. *This bio/more information is available at <https://www.birdseedcollective.org/about> (last visited August 23, 2022).*

Chained Voices: Chained Voices is an advocacy & empowerment art show, based in Denver. The show is a collaborative effort created on behalf of incarcerated artists in Colorado. The Chained Voices committee is comprised of community members, the DU Prison Arts Initiative, forensic social workers, public and private defense attorneys, community organizers, and family members of incarcerated people. Chained Voices' events feature art and other works created by persons currently incarcerated at a jail or Colorado Department of Corrections facility. *This bio/more information is available at [Chained Voices](#) (last visited August 23, 2022).* Two particular artists' work are featured in the Chained Voices art show at the Sturm College of Law Fall of 2022:

Blooming Where You're Planted, 2022, Created by Sunshine. "My tree has branches that are empty and branches full of flowers and stuff. This symbolizes that no matter the circumstance, you can bloom where you're planted. This is the meaning of resilience." This bio/more information is available at <https://chainedvoices.org/art/blooming-where-youre-planted-by-sunshine> (last visited August 23, 2022).

Chasing My Dreams, 2022, Created by Alberto Matias Martinez. More information is available at <https://www.chainedvoices.org/art/chasing-my-dreams-by-alberto-matias-martinez> (last visited August 23, 2022).

The Art Spread: The Art Spread provides a path for artists with adversity to success and financial stability. These goals are accomplished through deep mentorship and by equipping each artist to tell their stories through art. We strive to make art accessible to promote wellness through art. We spread empathy through art-and-adversity awareness workshops and build a supportive community for everyone experiencing mental, physical, and societal challenges. *This bio/more information is available at <https://theartspread.org/about-us/> (last visited February 7, 2023).* Three particular artists' work are featured (information taken from theartspread website):

Apocalypse II, 2013, Created by Azadeh Sarvi of [Free Spirit](#). In this series inspired by my heritage, I introduced old Persian motives into my symbolic abstract painting, casting a bridge between traditional and modern art. Her name reveals her identity. Azadeh, a Persian word meaning “Free Spirited”, describes her unrestrained passion for sharing the beauty of Life with all. Azadeh is a yogi-artist who admires nature, culture, poetry, and music. Born and raised in Tehran, Azadeh received her BA of Arts at Azad University of Art and Architecture in Tehran. Since 1998, she participated in numerous solo and group exhibitions in Iran, Canada, and the U.S. Her works are presented on bronze, clay, canvas, wood, fabrics, and paper. Azadeh creates her mixed media art using natural elements. She uses organic ingredients for color, such as saffron, tea leaves, turmeric powder, lapis powder, etc. Organic materials are very inspirational to her considering they have been used in Persian paintings and calligraphy for thousands of years.

Bloom, 2017, Created by Rawan Ita of [Project TheraPaint](#). ‘Bloom’ was inspired by evolution and growth. Rawan Ita-Diaz is a Detroit based artist with a Master’s Degree in Architecture & Design. In 2017, she was struck by an SUV while walking across a parking lot. Her life was never the same. Rawan’s permanent injuries cause her to struggle with chronic pain and emotional distress. To create, Rawan persists through the pain and finds emotional healing while painting. She paints the good, the bad, and the truths of life through what she calls Project TheraPaint. Rawan’s artwork is showcased in [exhibitions and print publications](#) throughout the world.

Introduces’, 2022, Created by Gray Lucci of [Glucci](#). Your energy introduces you. Gray Lew is a North Carolina based artist who draws from personal connections to create her work. She is a self-taught artist and high school art teacher. She leaves her artistic mark on canvases, skateboards surfboards, as and murals. She brings awareness to mental health journeys through her work and sheds light on many mental health challenges by painting messy strokes with vibrant colors. Gray takes a brighter approach on mental health to support and connect with people during their most challenging moments.